

# *Report*

# Amistad National Recreation Area

## ■ 1.0 Site Description

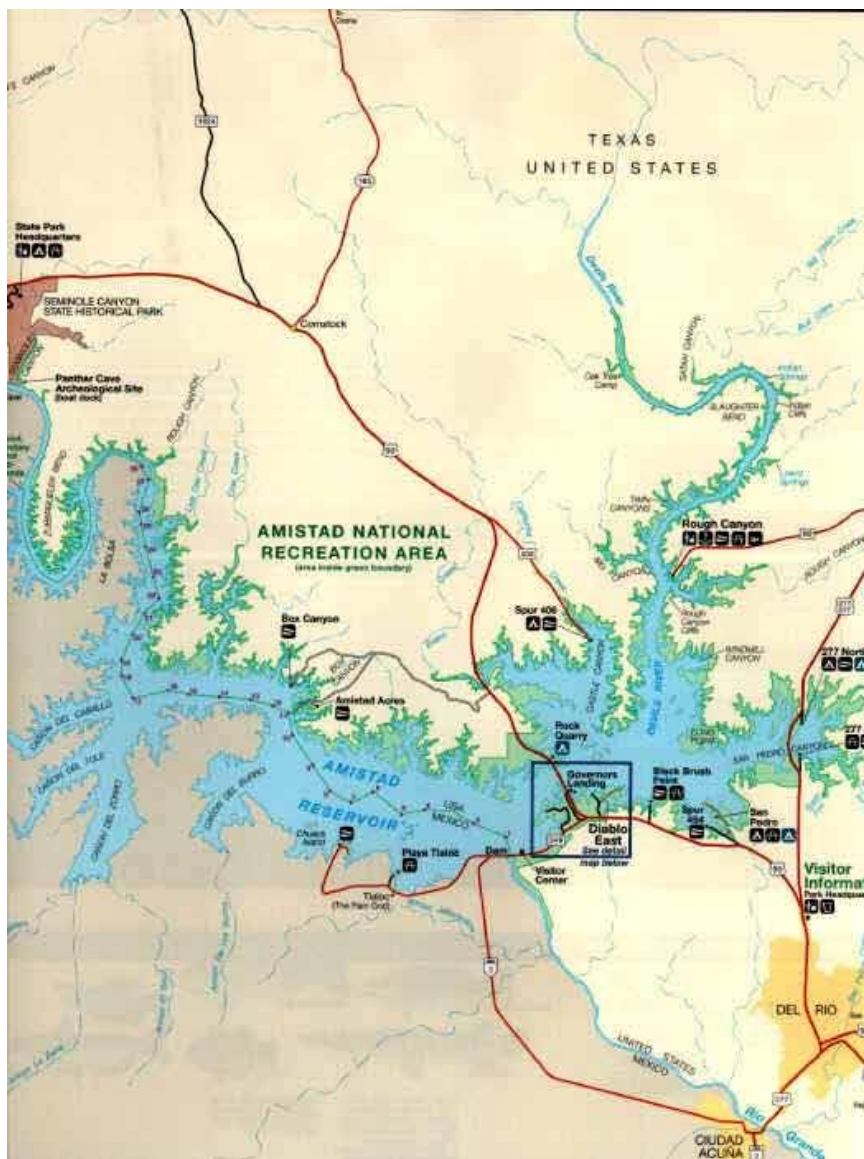
The Amistad National Recreation Area (NRA) is situated on the United States-Mexico border, located approximately 150 miles west of San Antonio, Texas. On the U.S. side, it is situated between the towns of Del Rio and Langtry, and is downstream from Big Bend National Park. Amistad is north of the state of Coahuila in Mexico, and is nearest the Mexican city of Ciudad Acuña (see Figure 1). Amistad Park Headquarters are located on U.S. Highway 90, just west of Del Rio, Texas and approximately six miles from the nearest lake access areas.

On the U.S. side, Amistad NRA is reached via Highway 90 from the east and west and U.S. Routes 277/377 from the north and south. On the Mexico side of the border, Amistad is reached via Highway 57. Del Rio has an airport that will accommodate small private planes. Amistad NRA may also be reached by bus or train as described in the following section.

Built at the confluence of the Rio Grande, Devils, and Pecos rivers, in 1969, the Amistad Dam created the reservoir that is the heart of the Amistad NRA. The Amistad NRA is known primarily for year-round, water-based recreation as well as for providing opportunities for picnicking, camping, hiking, and hunting. In addition to excellent recreation, this area is rich in archeology and rock art.

Amistad NRA contains of 57,292 acres, most of that are underwater. Lake Amistad is an International reservoir and recreation area, with 540 miles of lake shoreline in the United States. The Spanish word “amistad” translates to “friendship” in English.

Amistad NRA reported 1,129,811 visitors in 1998. This number represented an increase of 4.2 percent over 1997 visitation numbers.

**Figure 1. Amistad National Recreation Area Site Map**

## ■ 2.0 Existing ATS

No on-site park transportation services were identified. Visitors rely on their personal vehicles, bicycles, boats, and motorcycles for transportation within the Park.

Access directly to the Park from off site is only made by personal vehicle, but both bus and rail passenger services are available to within several miles of the park proper.

Amtrak passenger rail services are available to and from Del Rio. The Amtrak station is located at 100 N. Main Street. Service is available aboard the Texas Eagle on the following

days: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Friday. Service is also available on the Sunset Limited which operates Sunday, Tuesday, and Friday. On these days, there is one train each direction. The eastbound train departs Del Rio at 12:07 a.m., arriving in San Antonio by 3:21 a.m. The westbound train departs Del Rio at 8:30 a.m., arriving in Sanderson at 11:05, Alpine (Big Bend National Park) at 12:58 p.m., and El Paso at 3:50 p.m.

Greyhound in association with Kerrville Bus Company (KBC) provide bus service to and from Del Rio. There are five daily departures for eastbound travel to San Antonio as follows: 4:50 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and 8:25 p.m. There are two daily departures for westbound travel, one at 11:55 a.m., and another at 10:10 p.m.

### ■ 3.0 ATS Needs

The primary users of the NRA are boaters, hunters, and campers whose needs typically require the use of a personal vehicle, both in reaching the Park, as well as traveling within the Park. Thus the needs of the typical visitor would not be met by transportation modes other than the private vehicle.

### ■ 4.0 Basis of ATS Needs

Given current visitation patterns and the primary activities of this park site, the Amistad National Recreation Area is not a candidate site for Alternative Transportation Systems (ATS).

### ■ Bibliography

Amistad National Recreation Area. Internet site: <http://www.nps.gov/amis>. Information printed November 1999.

Amtrak Sunset Limited Route/Schedule. Internet site: <http://www.amtrak.com/>. Information printed November 1999.

Greyhound. Fares and Schedules to/from Del Rio, Texas. Internet site: <http://www.greyhound.com/>. Information printed November 1999.

### ■ 6.0 Persons Interviewed

William H. Sontag. Telephone conversation. November 1999